Import of Diamonds

754. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the quantity and the value of diamond imported during 1991-92 for the purpose of processing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): According to the figures from the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), the quantity and the value of diamonds imported from April, 1991 upto January, 1992 for processing were 495.21 lakh carats and Rs. 3968.68 crores respectively.

Reduction in Posts

755. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:
SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to reduce drastically the posts at various levels including that of Secretary, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary in the Ministries and Departments of the Government of India;

(b) if so, the number of such posts abolished or reduced or proposed to be reduced;

(c) whether the Government also propose to drastically reduce the number of central posts for IAS officers deputed from State cadres and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government also propose to reduce the retirement age of the Government employees from 58 to 55 years; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b). With a view to effect economy in expenditure, a review of the staff strength in the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and their field formations has been taken up to identify posts at various levels that could be surrendered/abolished. The review is still in progress. It is, therefore, not possible at this stage to indicate the number of posts that would be finally reduced.

(c) There is no proposal to alter the Central Deputation Reserve.

(d) There is no proposal to reduce the retirement age from 58 to 55.

(e) Does not arise.

Sale of Foreign Goods

756. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the foreign goods are being sold in the market these days;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Available reports indicate that consumer goods of foreign origin which have been imported as baggage or